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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

CALLOWAY COUNTY

Margaret Trevathan

The Oral History Project of the Calloway County Public Library is now in its eighth year. Although not much taping has been done this past year, the tape collection has been utilized in several areas. Programs were presented to community groups and classes, and much of the information found on the tapes is not recorded in any other way. Due to funds allocated from the Kentucky Oral History Commission, all of the tapes have been duplicated and the copy may now be borrowed. Friends of the Library, Library Staff, student volunteers, and Senior Citizens groups have been involved in the interviewing. The primary purpose of this program continues to be to get a background of information from as many communities in Calloway County as possible. As nothing much is written about such areas as Backusburg, Tobacco, Center Ridge, and Harris Grove, our goal is to find why the place name, who were some of the first families, what kind of business located there, and if there was a school or post office.

It is hoped that we can continue the project on a much larger scale in the year of 1980 and generate the interest and support that has made the project the success that it is.

MARSHALL COUNTY

Barbara Sirls

The preservation of history has been the primary interest of libraries down through the centuries. From those early clay tablets written 2,000 years before Christ to our modern microforms, the library preserves and dispenses a treasure house of information about our past.

This is wonderful. There is so much to be gained from the accumulation of knowledge that has been written by the most articulate and scholarly people of their day. But have you ever wondered, as I have, how the average person of those days felt about their lives? How did the harem girl, Egyptian slave driver, Roman housewife feel about their role in society and history? How did the pioneer man react to his new environment?

With our oral history program, the library has an opportunity to record the thoughts and experiences of these people who are actually the backbone of history; the hitherto untapped silent majority who can express, in their own words, how the events in history have influenced their lives.

This is the opportunity in which everyone can become involved. Encourage your older friends and neighbors who have lived history to share those moments with posterity by making an oral history tape for the library. Bring the personal touch into history by making it both written and verbal.

MCCRACKEN COUNTY

Debra Hancock

The Paducah Public Library began its participation in the Oral History project with the 1976 Kentucky Bicentennial celebration. The purpose for the participation was to preserve, through taped recordings, the history of McCracken County residents. During 1976, Ballard and Livingston Coun-

ties joined McCracken County in preserving their history.

A workshop was held at the Paducah Public Library, summer of 1978 by John Marshall, Purchase Oral History coordinator at that time. The purpose of the workshop was to inform interested persons with the background of the Oral History project, demonstrate use of the tape machine, and discuss materials available for interviewing. As a result of the Bicentennial and the workshop, seventeen tapes make up the varied collection of McCracken County. These tapes include an Alben Barkley autobiography, a history of Paducah Community College, a resident's coming to Kentucky in a covered wagon, the life of a retired oil merchant, and others catalogued for circulation.

Livingston County tapes are now ready for circulation and other tapes will be added to the collection in the near future. Several newspaper releases have appeared in the *Paducah Sun* and *The Shoppers' News* regarding the collection of Oral History tapes. A list of tapes available for circulation is also on the Paducah Public Library Bookmobile, including those tapes of Livingston County. A list of the Livingston County tapes will soon be published in the *Paducah Sun*.

Anyone in the Ballard, Livingston, and McCracken County areas is encouraged to participate in our Oral History project.

Here is a list of the tapes now available in the Paducah Public Library.

McCRACKEN COUNTY TAPES AVAILABLE FOR CIRCULATION

MC-1	Alben Barkley Speeches	1956	Autobiography (Prepared cassette)
MC-2	Patrick Lally	1977	Retired Drug Salesman (Irish History)
3			
MC-4,	Dr. Gordon Matheson &	1976	Paducah Community
5, 6	Dr. Donald Clemens		College History
MC-7	Mrs. Beatrice Grutcher Keeler	June 2, 1977	Coming to Ky. in a covered wagon
MC-8	Mrs. Delmar Evelyn Golightly	April 14, 1977	The establishment of Barger and Golightly Produce Co. & the background of the founders. 1937 Flood.
MC-9	Mrs. Madge Sanders	July, 1975	1937 Flood; effects on her family.
MC10	Mr. Frank Rein	July, 1975	1937 Flood. He was working in I.C. Shops & describes building a raft & escaping.
MC-11	Mr. Thurman Parish	July, 1974	Blind street musician explains how he learned to play the guitar.
MC-12	Mr. Richard Gordon	March, 1977	Retired oil merchant; early years in the United States.
13			

MC-14 Mr. Oscar Cross	June 9, 1977	Retired Juvenile Officer; Boys' Club Director; Juvenile delinquency; Racial issues past 50 years, Paducah.
MC-15 Myrla Peck	Summer, 1977	Well known musician (Memoirs)
MC-16 Annie Pepper	Fall, 1976	Founding of Lone Oak Community
MC-17 Annie Lester	Summer, 1977	Retired teacher (Memoirs).
MC-18 Charlie Hall 19	3-25-78	Stories of Family, Civil War, James' Boys & Other Gangs; Changes Over the Years; Curing Tobacco, Raising Wheat; Rendering up Lard, etc.; Blacks Barbecuing; Hogkilling Time; Indians; Remembered Stories.
MC-20 Floy Miller, Teacher	7-27-78	Life Near Golden Pond; Growing up in the Land between the Lakes; Games; Schools & Teaching.
MC-21 Gertie T. Riley, Cook	8-10-78	Boys' Barbecue & Barbecuing.
MC-22 David Barkley	8-3-78	Genealogy
MC-23 Mrs. Edgar Metzger (Irene Scopes) 24	9-5-78	Metzger Meat Packing Business & Cultural Recollections.
MC-25 Ms. Lela Scopes	7-18-79	Scopes family background; "The Monkey Trial" and the effects of the trial on John Scopes, his continuing education, change of career and later years of work.

BALLARD COUNTY TAPES AVAILABLE FOR CIRCULATION

BC-1 Newton Belt	1977	History of Blandville Kentucky.
BC-2 V. J. Barlow	1976	Ballard County Reminiscences.
BC-3 Jess Kinsey	1977	Old Joe Holt Home.

BC-4	Ora Mae Simpson	1977	Growing Up in Ballard County
BC-5	Rube Elrod	1976	Reminiscences of Ballard County.
BC-6	Rufus Shelby	1977	Wreck of River Packet; Recollections of Rufus and Oakie Shelby.
BC-7	Shellie Penn Harkey	1977	LaCenter College.
BC-8	Juanita Crice	1977	Oscar Community Sixty Years Ago.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY TAPES AVAILABLE FOR CIRCULATION

LC-1	Lucy Wilson	12-76	Reminiscences of Livingston County; Interviewer: Rev. Ray Brown.
LC-2	Lucy Wilson	12-76	Side A: Dedication of Sr. Citizen Bldg. by County Leaders.
	Mabel Melton, retired nurse.	12-76	Side B: Beginning of Night Riders. Mining. Fishing.
LC-3	Lucy Wilson	12-76	Development of the Livingston County Senior Citizens Bldg.
LC-4	Lucy Wilson	11-76	Development of Senior Citizens Organizations in Liv. Co.
LC-5	Lucy Wilson		PCC Faculty Brings History class to Sr. Citizens Organization in Livingston County.
LC-6	Lewis E. Wilson, retired farmer	11-76	Farming in Livingston County.
LC-7	Julian Carroll		Dedication of Ledbetter School, Livingston County.
LC-8		12-76	Christmas program of Methodist Women, Livingston County.
LC-9	Emma Lucas		Growing up in Livingston County.
LC-10	Lora L. Lucas		Growing up on a Farm and Teaching Elementary School.
LC-11	Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis Matthews, retired farmer & wife.		Farming in Livingston County.

LC-12	Cregg Dycus		World War I Experiences and Livingston Rural Schools.
LC-13	Grace McCandless, retired housewife.		Early History of Livingston County/ Smithland.
LC-14	Mrs. Elva Rudd		Life in Livingston County.
LC-15	Eulen Ramage		Life and Trials of County Sheriff and Judge . . . Livingston Co.
LC-16	Mrs. J. Harold Brown, retired registered nurse		Health and Welfare History of Livingston County.
LC-17	Mr. Grady Rutter		Memories of Growing up in Livingston County.
LC-18	Lois Mahon		Side A: Stories and Facts about People in Livingston Co. Side B: Stories & Facts on L. Co. High School & its History.
LC-19			Livingston County: Committee Members of Liv. Co. A.S.C.S.
LC-20	Samuel R. Guard		Reading of "A Farmer Gives Thanks" (Historical).
LC-21	Dwight & Lucy Rhea	7-77	Gospel Singing.
LC-22	L. M. (Rabbit) Gardner, Riverboat Captain.		Experiences on Ohio & Cumberland Rivers.
LC-23	Gabe McCandless, retired Co. Court Clerk	4-78	Hanging of Willie DeBoe.
LC-24	Mrs. Effie Thompson & Mrs. Margaret Vick	6-77	Early Years in the Hampton & Carrsville Com. Introduced by Blanche Brown.
LC-25	Ernest Shewcraft	8-77	Night Riders at Dycusburg.
LC-26	Otho Holland Former teacher & law student	7-26-77	Experiences.
LC-27	Otho Holland	8-3-77	Growing up in Western Kentucky.

LC-28	Otho Holland	8-3-77	Tales of Living in Livingston County.
LC-29	Otho Holland 30	8-24-77	Personal Experiences in West Ky.
LC-31	Otho Holland 32	8-27-77	Incidents in Western Kentucky
LC-33	Otho Holland	10-10-77	Tales of Western Kentucky
LC-34	Otho Holland	10-10-77	Remembrances
LC-35	Otho Holland	12-1-77	Smithland Farmer & His Experiences.
LC-36	Otho Holland	5-1-78	Retired Landowner's Experiences.
LC-37	Otho Holland	5-4-78	Experiences in Oklahoma.
LC-38	Otho Holland	5-4-78	Tales of the Civil War.
LC-39	Ollie McFalls	8-8-78	Banjo Playing
LC-40	Boyce Moodie	8-8-78	Stories of Early Smithland; Shaft Mining; Barge Business & Coal, etc.
LC-41	Ed Calender	7-28-78	Builder of Railroad Cars; Early Ways of Doing Things
LC-42	Jinnie Gray	8-1-78	Farming on the Cumberland River; the Depression.

[Editor's Note: Tapes LC 26, 34, 36, 37, 39, 40, and 41 are not available for circulation as of April 1 (press deadline), but will be ready soon.]

